be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of the opening of a new Post Office, the loss in respect of the parent Post Office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

(b) In Urban Areas

In Urban areas, the post office should initially be self-supporting, and, at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 kms. In cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 kms. in other Urban Areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 kms. for each other.

A delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

Anomalies in pay structure of village postal employees

409. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is very low pay for village postal employees than those employees working in urban areas;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider to remove such disparity of pay scale for village postal employees;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) The Gramin Dak Sevak engaged in the Branch Post Offices are part time workers who perform duties ranging from 3 hrs. to a maximum of 5 hrs. per day. They are governed by a separate set of Rules called Gramin Dak Sevak (Conduct and Employment) Rules, 2001 not framed under Article 309 of the Constitution. Their wage structure is determined based on the work load corresponding to 3 hours upto a maximum 5 hours duty.

The Departmental employees and the Gramin Dak Sevaks are governed by different set of conduct and employment Rules, there is no parity in their wage structure.